

Mussau-Emira

<https://pwsmith.github.io/multivaluation/dbcoord/>

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1 Overview

Language family:	Austronesian (Oceanic)
Countries:	Papua New Guinea (Islands of Mussau and Emira)
Number of speakers:	5,000
Agreement features:	number, person
Attested word orders:	SV
Coordination types:	and (“or” is used only as a clause coordinator)

(The data were entered by a linguist who has worked intensively on the language via an online survey. Mussau E)

2 Patterns for number

2.1 Coordination with “and”

2.1.1 SV order

Pattern: Mussau-Emira has singular, dual, trial, paucal, and plural number. With two singular conjuncts, the verb is marked as dual. If one of the conjuncts is plural, number is resolved to plural. In general, the number is the sum of the numbers of the conjuncts.

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	sg	pl
sg	du	pl
pl	pl	pl

Examples:

- (1) Alik i eteva me taita ateva lalū ilou.
boy SG and man SG they.DU run.DU
'The boy and the man run.'
- (2) a. Alik i etoa me taita ateva la ilou.
boy PL and man SG they run.PL
'The boys and the man run.'
- b. Alik i eteva me taita atoa la ilou.
boy SG and man PL they run.PL
'The boy and the men run.'

3 Patterns for person

3.1 Coordination with “and”

3.1.1 SV order

Pattern: These constructions are ineffable. In combinations of 1st and 2nd person singular, the coordination is replaced by *italu* (“we”). In other combinations, entire clauses are coordinated. There is no person distinction in dual and plural. (The forms are syncretic.)

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	1	2	3
1		ineff	ineff
2	ineff		
3	ineff		

Examples:

- (3) Italu ilou.
we.1DU.INCL run.DU
'You and I run.'/'I and you run.'/lit. 'We run.'
- (4) a. Ita/ami ilou me ila tee la ilou.
we.INCL/we.EXCL run.PL and they also they run.PL
'We and they run.'

- b. La ilou me ita/ami tee ita/ami ilou.
they run.PL and we.INCL/we.EXCL also we.INCL/we.EXCL run.PL
'They and we run.'